

Resources

Some garbage and recycling collection companies in the region provide sharps disposal programs for their customers. Call your hauler or Metro Recycling Information to learn whether your hauler provides this service.

Metro Recycling Information

503-234-3000

www.oregonmetro.gov/recycling

Information and referral on household hazardous waste options, including sharps disposal, in the Portland metropolitan area.

Bio-Med of Oregon

800-622-1378

Supply, pickup and disposal of sharps containers for a fee in Washington and Clackamas counties.

Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal

800-643-1643

www.safeneedledisposal.org

Information about disposal laws and links to sharps disposal programs within the United States and Canada.

Critical Care BioRecovery LLC

503-698-4415

www.criticalcarebiorecovery.com/medicalwaste

Supply, pickup and disposal of sharps containers for a fee.

Metro Central Station hazardous waste facility

503-234-3000, 6161 NW 61st St., Portland

Metro South Station hazardous waste facility

503-234-3000, 2001 Washington St., Oregon City

Sharps Compliance Inc.

800-772-5657

www.sharpsinc.com

Supply and disposal of sharps containers by mail for a fee.

Stericycle

866-783-7422

www.stericycle.com

Supply and disposal of sharps containers by mail for a fee. Pickup for commercial accounts in Multnomah County only.

Waste Management Inc./WM Healthcare Solutions

866-931-6321

www.medwaste.wm.com

Supply and disposal of sharps containers by mail for a fee.

Metro **People places. Open spaces.**

Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy and good transportation choices for people and businesses in our region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges that cross those lines and affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to protecting open space, caring for parks, planning for the best use of land, managing garbage disposal and increasing recycling. Metro oversees world-class facilities such as the Oregon Zoo, which contributes to conservation and education, and the Oregon Convention Center, which benefits the region's economy.

Your Metro representatives

Metro Council President – David Bragdon

Metro Councilors – Rod Park, District 1; Carlotta Collette, District 2; Carl Hosticka, District 3; Kathryn Harrington, District 4; Rex Burkholder, District 5; Robert Liberty, District 6.

Auditor – Suzanne Flynn

www.oregonmetro.gov

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Safe disposal of medical syringes

Sharps container exchange program



Why is safe disposal important?

Placing hypodermic needles and other medical sharps in the trash is unsafe for garbage haulers and other disposal workers who handle solid waste. Because of this and other public safety concerns, it is illegal in Oregon to dispose of syringes and other medical sharps in the garbage. The law also requires that medical sharps be disposed of in approved sharps containers.

What are sharps?

Sharps include needles, IV tubing with needles attached, scalpel blades, lancets, glass tubes and slides, and syringes.

What is an approved sharps container?

According to state law, approved sharps containers are rigid, leakproof, puncture-resistant, sealed and clearly marked with the biohazard symbol. They are made specifically for the disposal of medical sharps and can be purchased from many pharmacies.

How can I dispose of sharps safely?

There are several options for safe disposal of sharps in the Metro region. Some pharmacies and garbage haulers provide sharps containers and disposal service to their customers for a fee. Metro also provides a container exchange program for residents of the region. This program protects workers from the risk of being stuck by a loose needle and provides convenient and affordable disposal to the public.

Who can participate?

This program is available only to households, not businesses.* Residents can bring syringes and other sharps in approved containers to Metro's hazardous waste facilities. Metro will dispose of sharps free of charge, after a one-time enrollment fee, and provide a new container.

Where to take your sharps container for disposal

Metro operates two household hazardous waste facilities, open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Metro South is in Oregon City. Metro Central is in Northwest Portland.

See the back of this brochure for the addresses of both locations, or call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000 for directions.

Metro Recycling Information also has information about some pharmacies and garbage haulers that accept sharps containers for a fee and can sell replacements.

Improperly contained sharps

For worker safety, customers who bring sharps in containers that Metro cannot accept will be asked to transfer them to an approved container.

Questions?

For more information about Metro's container exchange program or other options for sharps disposal, call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000.

How does the program work?

1 Enroll in the exchange program at one of Metro's hazardous waste facilities; the one-time \$5 enrollment fee includes a new, approved sharps container. Thereafter, participants can obtain one free container per day – additional containers are \$5 each – when submitting a full sharps container for free, proper disposal at Metro's hazardous waste facilities. Approved containers also are available for purchase at many local pharmacies and medical supply stores. Call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000 for additional options on obtaining sharps containers.

2 Bring in your container to one of Metro's hazardous waste facilities for disposal. You can dispose of up to 5 gallons of sharps at one time; larger volumes require prior arrangements with facility staff.

3 Receive a new empty container.



**This program is for households only. Residential care facilities, group homes and other commercial generators of sharps should contact a medical waste management company or their garbage hauler for disposal options.*